THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The main reasons for mounting losses of the State Electricity Boards include low agricultural tariff, low plant load factor, high transmission and distribution losses, pilferage of power, heavy interest burden on loans, losses accruing due to rural electrification etc. In order to offset these losses and to improve the operations of the SEBs so as to achieve the statutory surplus of 3%, State Governments have been advised to take steps like capital restructuring, prompt payment of subsidy to meet the losses for supply of power to agricultural sector, timely revision of tariffs, improving the performance of generating stations and fixation of a minimum agricultural power tariff of 50 paise/kwh. At the same time, the SEBs have been advised to identify specific areas of improvement which include reduction in T&D losses, economy in fuel, review of manpower cost, improvement in revenue collection etc.

Financing of power projects through sale of public bonds

1323. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are finding it difficult to raise Rs. 1650 crores through sale of public bonds for financing the central power projects;

(b) the amount of money that has been received through sale for public bonds, so far; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to raise sufficient fund for the power projects during the Eighth Five Year Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) Against Rs. 1,747 crores allocated by the Finance Ministry to the various Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Power against issue of Bonds for the year 1992-93, only Rs. 50 crores could be raised so far through private placement.

(c) The modes of financing Central power projects during the 8th Five Year Plan consist of additional generation of internal resources, market borrowing, Direct Foreign Assistance and Gross Budgetary Support.

Disbursement of loan for power projects

1324. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than Rs. 36,000 crore, commited as loan for various power projects in India, have not yet been disbursed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the commitment charges being paid on this loan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The commitment charges for the year 1992-93 has been estimated to be Rs. 23.36 crores for all multilateral and bilateral credit for the entire power sector.

Capacity of Thermal Power Stations in the Country

1325. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV :
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the answer to unstarred Question 213 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 1992 and state;

(a) what is the national percentage capacity of the thermal power stations producing energy; and

(b) which is the most efficient State for running the thermal power stations to its maximum capacity ?